etc. These vacancies are to be filled through promotion of eligible officers and deputation where provided under the rules.

(d) and (e) Government have taken a number of measures to reduce the pendency and the waiting time for issue of passports in various Passport Offices. These steps *inter alia* include stabilisation of the supply of passport booklets; introduction of a productivity linked incentive scheme; creation of 400 additional posts; etc. Deputation to the Central Passport Organisation is governed by the rules of the Organisation.

Statement

Sl. No.	Post	Sanctioned Strength			Occupancy			Vacancy		
		Promotion Quota	Deputation quota	Total	Promotion Quota	Deputation quota	Total	Promotion Quota	Deputation quota	Total
1.	Passport Officer	8	8	16	1	7	8	7	1	8
2.	Assistant Passport Officer	15	10	25	1	5	6	14	5	19
3.	Public Relations Officer	48	—	48	18	1	19	30	+1	29
4.	Superintendent	61	—	61	74	1	75	+13	+1	+14

Hiring of Publicity Firm in USA to Handle Indian Mission's Public Relation

2797. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to hire a publicity firm in USA to handle the Indian Mission's public relations;

(b) if so, what is the decision, if any, taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) what are the functions of the publicity firm defined by the Government;

(d) what are the conditions, if any, laid down by Government under which the publicity firm is supposed to function; and

(e) what is the monthly expenditure involved in foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Government propose to hire a legal firm.

(b) The final decision in this regard will depend on the outcome of negotiations with the several firms which have been shortlisted.

(c) The functions of the firm will include provision of legal assistance to our Mission and Posts in the USA and facilitation in projecting India's viewpoint on a wide range of issues.

(d) and (e) Detailed terms and conditions including those relating to expenditure, are currently under negotiation.

Restriction on Unmarried Persons for Entry into Britain, U. S. and Canada

2798. SHRI BHADRESWAR GOHAIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Great Britain, U. S. and Canada have issued instructions to their diplomatic missions abroad not to issue any entry permit to any unmarried individuals into their countries;

(b) whether genuine students and scholars are likely to be affected by this decision of these countries; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken by the Government of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Government are not aware of any internal instructions issued by the Governments of U. K, U. S. A. and Canada to their Missions in India to this effect.

(b) While there has been tightening of

immigration regulations in general by foreign countries, genuine students and scholars who satisfy the requirements of such regulations of a particular country can apply student visa.

(c) Since grant of visa by a foreign Mission is a prerogative of each Government concerned, Government can only bring genuine difficulties to the attention of the foreign Mission concerned.

PM's Visit to Uzbekistan

2799. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of bilateral talks held between the Prime Minister and the Uzbekistan Government during the last visit of Prime Minister to Uzbekistan;

(b) whether the issue of Indian students at Uzbekistan figured in the discussion; and

(c) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) During his visit to Uzbekistan in May,1993, the Prime Minister had wide-ranging discussions with President Karimov. These were devoted to the further strengthening of Indo-Uzbek bilateral relations. The two leaders also exchanged views on regional and global issues.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Extradition of Dawood Ibrahim

2800. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN:
SHRI SOM PAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dubai based self exiled Dawood Ibrahim's Indian Passport is cancelled, if so, why;

(b) what are the implications of above decision on the extradition proceedings going on against him;

(c) whether it is a fact that Dawood name figures on top among the Bombay Stock Exchange Blasters;

(d) if so, whether the cancellation of passport would hinder his extradition proceedings; if not, why;

(e) whether any nexus is established between Dawood, politicians and mafias; and

(f) whether it is a fact that Dawood has financed certain political parties of India in the last Lok Sabha General Elections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (f) The passport of Shaikh Dawood Hasan @ Dawood Ibrahim was revoked as he is one of the accused in the Bombay bomb blasts case.

The revocation of the Indian passport of Shaikh Dawood Hasan would have no effect on the request for his extradition as an Indian national. However the revocation of his passport means that as an Indian national he has no legal travel document. This would not affect the extradition proceedings but he is not having a valid Indian travel document means that as an Indian national he is staying abroad illegally.

The Ministry of External Affairs has no information regarding a nexus between Dawood Ibrahim, politicians and mafias or of any financing by him of any political party in the last Lok Sabha General Elections.

Bangladeshi Migrants in India

2801. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) Report (July 6, 1993), which studies the phenomenon of migration on global scales, has made no reference to the one million plus migration of Bangladeshi into India, or of the 60,000 Chakmas, the Buddhist-tribals whereas references pertaining to the Afghan refugee of the 1980s and of the broken Yugoslavia of the current decade were made in the said (UNFPA); report; and

(b) whether Government of India had taken note thereof and if so, what is its reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The omission of any reference to the situation in India has been brought to the attention of UNFPA authorities.